

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8 to 10 and 14, all other claims being cancelled.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8 to 10 and 14 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Applicants traverse these rejections. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the clockwise direction is crosswise to the axis of rotation of the bearing and to recite that a sealing edge on a wall of the recess, wherein a first sealing lip is supported axially on an outer wall of the recess with play. Claim 5 has been amended to recite "an end face" and "a mounting position" and claim 8 has been amended to recite "a diameter (D₁)" and "a diameter (D₃). Therefore, the amended claims are believed to comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8 to 10 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Ohata et al patent which according to the Examiner discloses a similar device comprising an elastic sealing disk running around with an outer bearing ring or a housing, having a reinforcement and positionally fixed with positive engagement in a receptacle or an annular

groove, the sealing disk engaging with a flexible seal in a recess of an inner bearing ring and being support by means of a sealing edge on a wall, a sealing lip is supported axially on a wall of the recess and a second sealing lip is assigned to a wall of the recess with play, a mass of the first sealing lip forming a center of mass, which, in a fitted position of the sealing arrangement, is offset in relation to a supporting line determined by the sealing disk in such a way that the centrifugal force acting at the center of mass initiates a force component acting in clockwise direction, the first and second sealing lips being made to extend from a common sealing lip root of the sealing disk and the first sealing lip has on the outside, on a side facing the second sealing lip, a bead


Applicants traverse this rejection since the Ohata patent does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention, which invention claims a bead (24) on the first sealing lip (14) by which a movement of the center of mass initiates appears. This center of mass initiates in the installation situation is arranged shifted to the sealing moves to a supporting line arranged which is determined by the sealing disc (3). The draught causes a diminished strut of the sealing lip (14) with rising speed. Consequently, the friction power of the sealing decreases. This claimed arrangement is described in detail during the paragraph (0006) of the application.

Ohata shows in Fig. 5 a sealing deviating compared with the Schaeffler invention. The thick lips (64) and (65) of the sealing (52a) build an immediately co-operating unity. A changed position of the thick lip (64) influences immediately the situation of the thick lip (65). With rising speed of the sealing (52a) because of the center of mass initiates of the thick lip (65) there

will be a support of this thick lip (65) on the wall (56). Thus the supporting strength of the thick lip (64) is reduced and at the same time strut of the thick lip (65) appears. Consequently, the known sealing arrangement of Ohata causes a displacement of the strut, without reduction of the friction power. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicants' patentable invention. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures